



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

Barrington's account should effectually dispose of this version. According to him, the state of Virginia was so alarming that it was thought necessary "a Governor and a man of great distinction" should reside there. As Amherst refused to assume the duties of his office, he added, "Lord Botetourt has been appointed in his room, a man every way fit for the business he has undertaken." In a subsequent letter, Barrington further wrote: "The News Papers have assigned other reasons for Lord Botetourt's appointment; but without the least ground. He never had an Idea of going to America till it was proposed to him."

GEORGE LOUIS BEER.

*Writings of John Quincy Adams.* Edited by WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD. Volume I., 1779-1796. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1913. Pp. xxiv, 508.)

"I HAVE, indeed, had little apprehension of incurring the censure of writing too little", wrote John Quincy Adams to his father from the Hague. "My principal fear has been lest the charge of an opposite fault should be applicable. . . . I have sometimes given a latitude to opinions upon actors and events, which perhaps will be thought indiscreet." Whatever opinion the Secretary of State may have entertained of the discursive communications of this young diplomat, posterity has reason to be grateful to him for "descending into the detail of minute circumstances". Every reader of the monumental *Memoirs* knows the variety and wealth of his observations during a half-century of public service and a residence of a quarter-century at European courts. Indeed, one's first feeling is that of wonder that the archives of the Adams family can be made to yield sufficient new material to warrant a series of volumes of unpublished writings. This initial volume demonstrates that the undertaking is of first-rate importance.

While the primary purpose of the editor has been to print material relating chiefly to the public life of the second Adams, he has included many letters of rare biographical interest. For a period of nine years (April, 1785, to June, 1794), an important formative period in the life of Adams, the *Memoirs* are a blank; and the portions of the *Diary* published subsequently cover only the years 1787-1789. A score of letters judiciously selected from his correspondence with members of his family, therefore, adds materially to our knowledge of the young lawyer on the threshold of his career. He shared the fate of most young barristers. "I gain my causes", he wrote despondently to his brother Charles, "but I get no business". During this period of enforced idleness, he was drawn into politics, much against his conscience. "I have been really apprehensive of becoming politically known before I could establish a *professional* reputation", he wrote to his father. The publication of Paine's *Rights of Man* in 1791 provoked him to his first essay as a publicist. Under the pen-name *Publicola*, he addressed twelve letters

to the *Columbian Centinel* which were at once attributed to John Adams and brought upon the author much pointless abuse. These essays are reprinted for the first time. Immediately upon the proclamation of neutrality, young Adams hastened to the defense of the administration, under the pseudonym *Marcellus*. Later in the year, as *Columbus*, he vigorously denounced the conduct of the French minister Genet. Both of these contributions to the polemic literature of the day are reprinted from the *Centinel*. "I see very plainly whither your bark is tending", wrote his brother Charles in 1794, apropos of his part in a Boston town-meeting, when he "came forward and acquired much honor". "You must be your father's own son, notwithstanding the rocks he has pointed out to you." It was the articles by *Columbus* which, according to John Adams, earned for the author the regard of President Washington, and his first diplomatic appointment. On May 30, 1794, he was commissioned as minister to the Netherlands, at the age of twenty-six.

From the numerous and lengthy despatches of the young diplomat at the Hague, the editor has selected twenty-nine, chiefly with a view to supplying the gaps in the *Memoirs*. A hiatus between October 31, 1794, and January 1, 1795, for example, has been closed partially by eight letters to the Secretary of State and by several letters to John Adams. The fragmentary account in the *Memoirs* of Adams's mission to England, in connection with the ratification of the Jay treaty, is supplemented by both private and official correspondence. In an interesting letter to Timothy Pickering, acting secretary, December 5, 1795, the editor has inserted an important paragraph (p. 446), which was omitted from the text printed in the *Memoirs* (p. 159). If we may trust the letters written in confidence to his father, Adams had little taste for this English mission—possibly because his heart was at this time otherwise involved. He doubted his qualifications as a diplomat. "I have been accustomed all my life to plain dealing and candor", he wrote, "and am not sufficiently versed in the art of political swindling to be prepared for negotiating with an European Minister of State." That his superiors did not share this low opinion of his talents was abundantly proved by his immediate appointment as minister plenipotentiary to Portugal.

From time to time, especially when writing to his father, Adams searches his own soul with Puritan rigor. A single chance observation reveals a salient quality of character and projects the reader far into the storm and stress of his later career. "The struggle against a popular clamor is not without its charms in my mind. Nothing great or valuable among men was ever achieved without the counterpoise of strong opposition, and the persecution that proceeds from opinion becomes itself a title to esteem, when opinion is found to have been erroneous."

It is a guarantee of the excellence of the workmanship of this series that Mr. Worthington Ford has undertaken the editorial management. This first volume, carefully annotated, satisfies every demand of the reader.

ALLEN JOHNSON.